

### **REMARKS**

Claims 2-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Mizumoto. The Examiner states that Mizumoto discloses a core comprising a mixture of an active ingredient and a sugar (col. 7, lines 24-26; col. 12, lines 24-26; and col. 13, lines 307), and the core is covered substantially completely with a disintegrating agent (col. 13, lines 26-41 and lines 58-65).

Certainly, Mizumoto discloses a core comprising a mixture of an active ingredient and a sugar (see col. 7, lines 24-26; col. 12, lines 24-26; and col. 13, lines 3-7). However, Mizumoto does not disclose nor suggest the core is covered substantially completely with a disintegrating agent.

A disintegrating agent is an additive agent with a basic function to promote disintegration of a tablet in stomach or oral cavity into primary or individual particles through loosening adhesions between particles by absorbing water to swell. Once the disintegrating agent fully absorbs water, the function of the disintegrating agent can no longer be fulfilled. That is why persons skilled in the art would not try to add the disintegrating agent to a coating solution (water solution) and would not understand that the disintegrating agent should be added to a coating solution. That, however, is exactly what Mizumoto teaches at column 13, lines 62-65 ("a coating solution prepared by dissolving an active ingredient together with a high moldability saccharine in water").

The Examiner states that the disintegrating agent is then added to the aqueous solution, when 1/3 of the solution is purified water and a sugar or a sugar and a binder remains in Examples 1-12 of the present specification. However, the disintegrating agent in the present invention is not added to the aqueous solution, but is directly added in the form of dry powder into the granulation dryer (see Examples 1-12 of the present specification).

Thus, the method of using the disintegrating agent in the present application is completely different from that of Mizumoto's invention even if Mizumoto discloses adding a disintegrating agent to an aqueous solution of a sugar in a granulation machine.

Therefore, the present invention is not anticipated by Mizumoto since the tablet of the present invention is different from Mizumoto's tablet.

A good faith effort has been made to place this application in condition for allowance. If the Examiner should have any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss the matter.

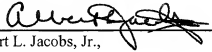
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Dated: July 2, 2008

This correspondence is being submitted electronically through the patent and trademark office EFS filing system on 7/02/08.

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Respectfully submitted,



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